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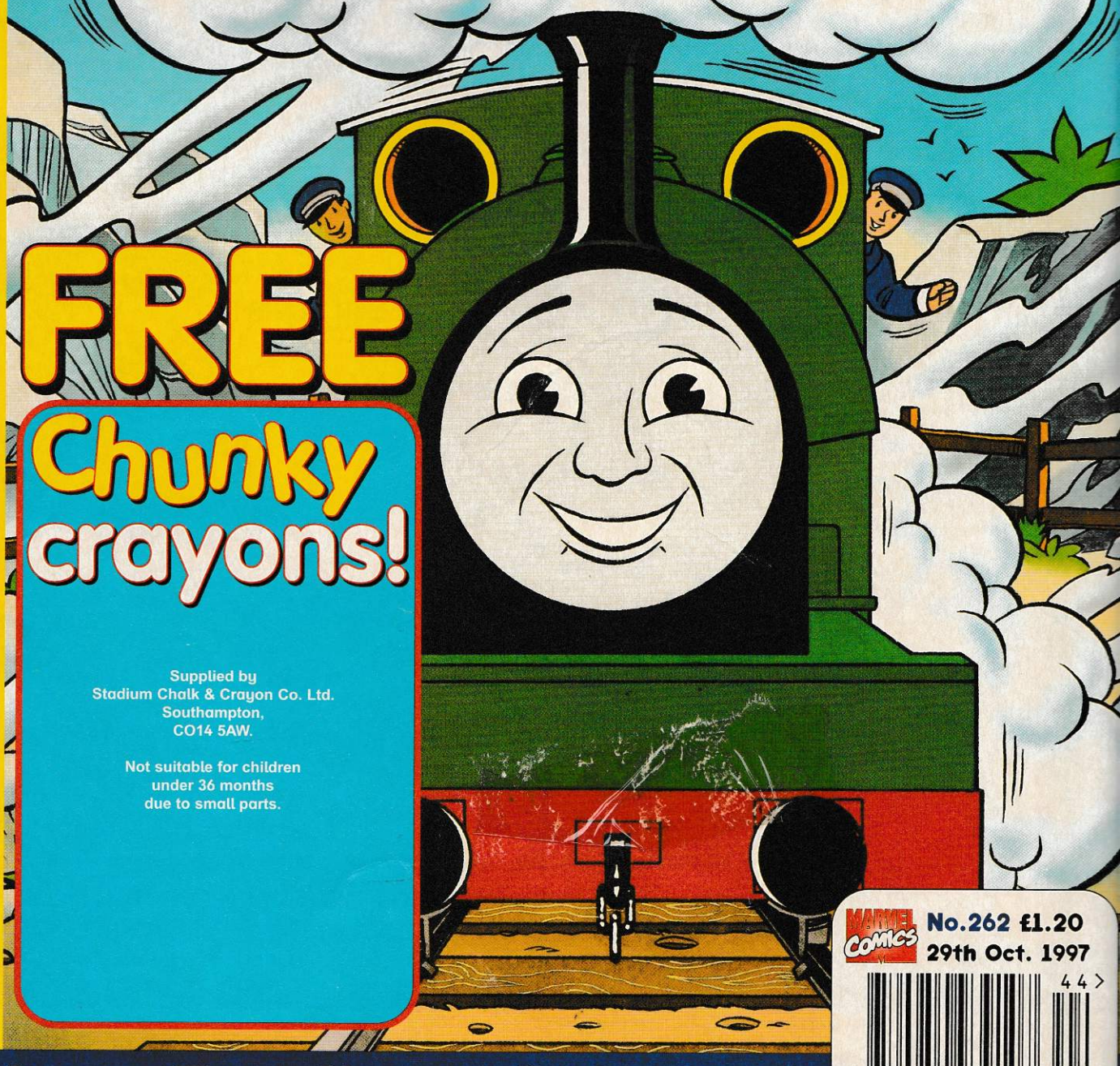
LET'S READ TOGETHER

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS™

Based on the Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS



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Puzzles · Reading · Colouring

Hello, everybody!

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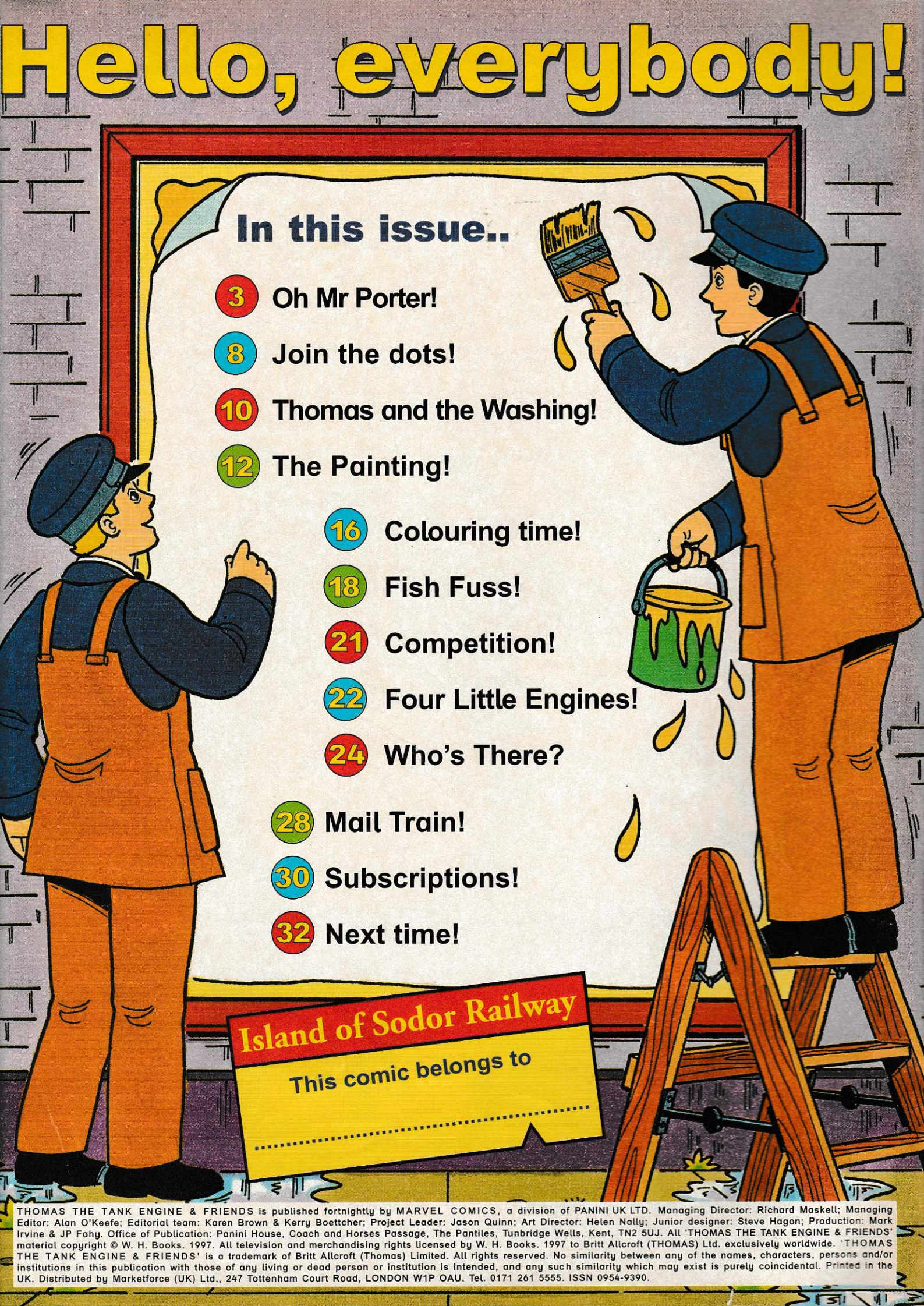

Island of Sodor Railway

This comic belongs to .....

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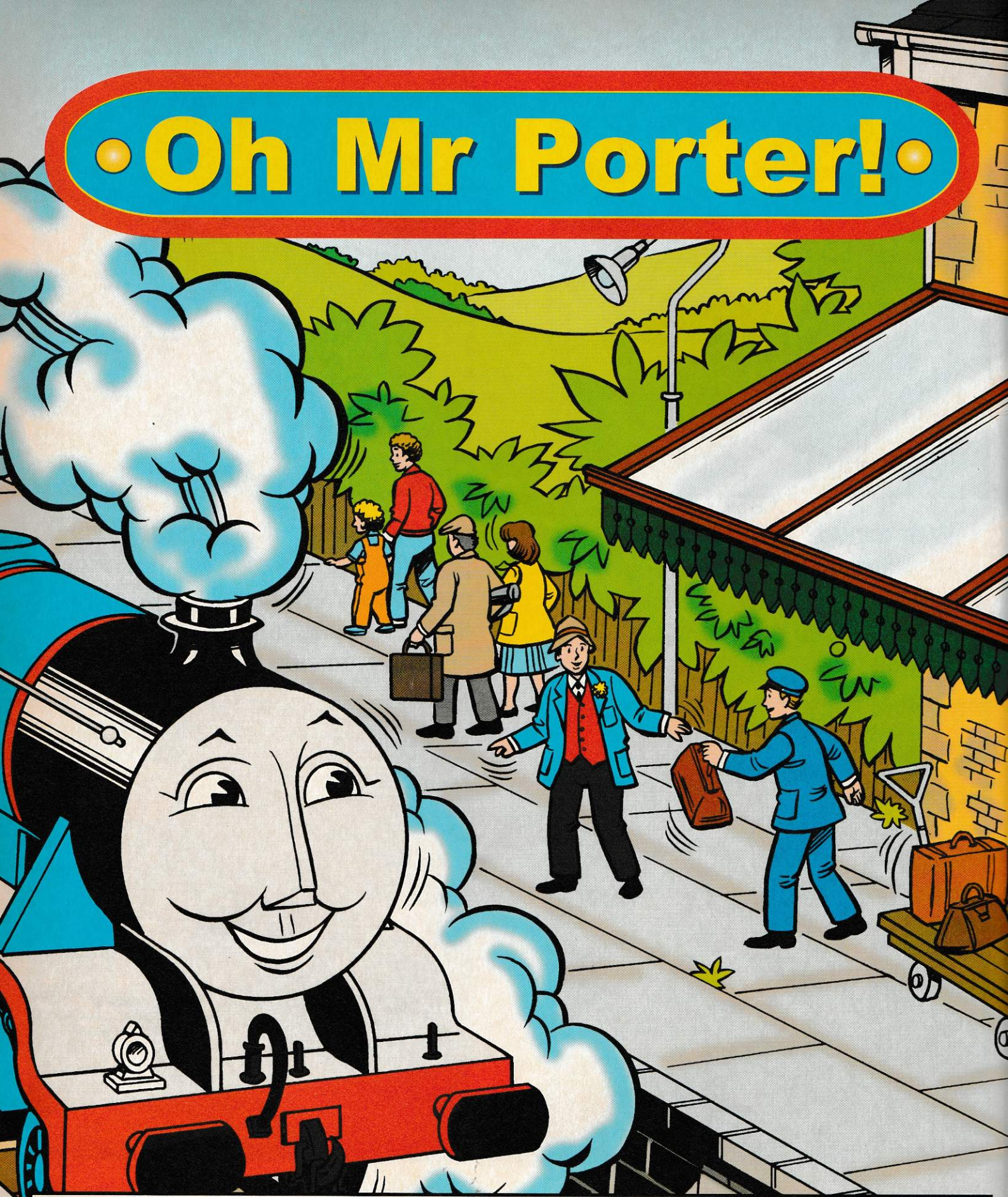
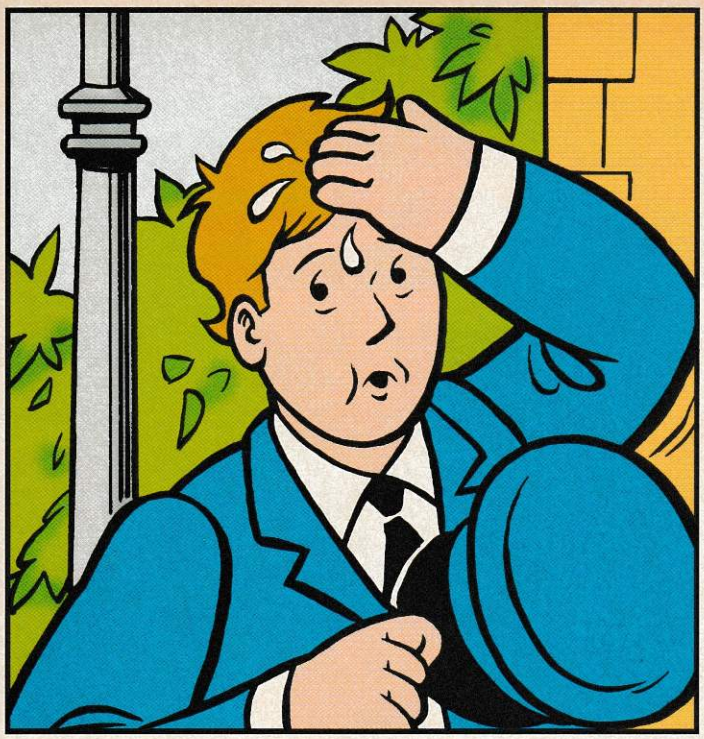
Oh Mr Porter!

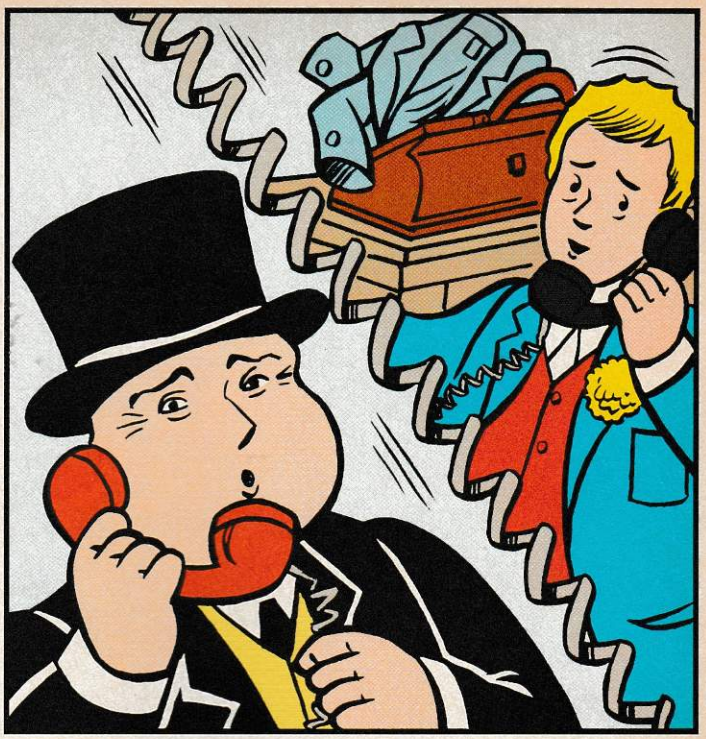


1. It was a very busy evening at the Main Station and Gordon's express was just pulling in. "Mind the doors, ladies and gentlemen! Stand back, stand back!" shouted the guard.

2. Gordon stopped and lots of people got off. Lots more people were ready to get on, and the porter was very busy. "Mr. Porter, pass me my bag, please!" a man called.



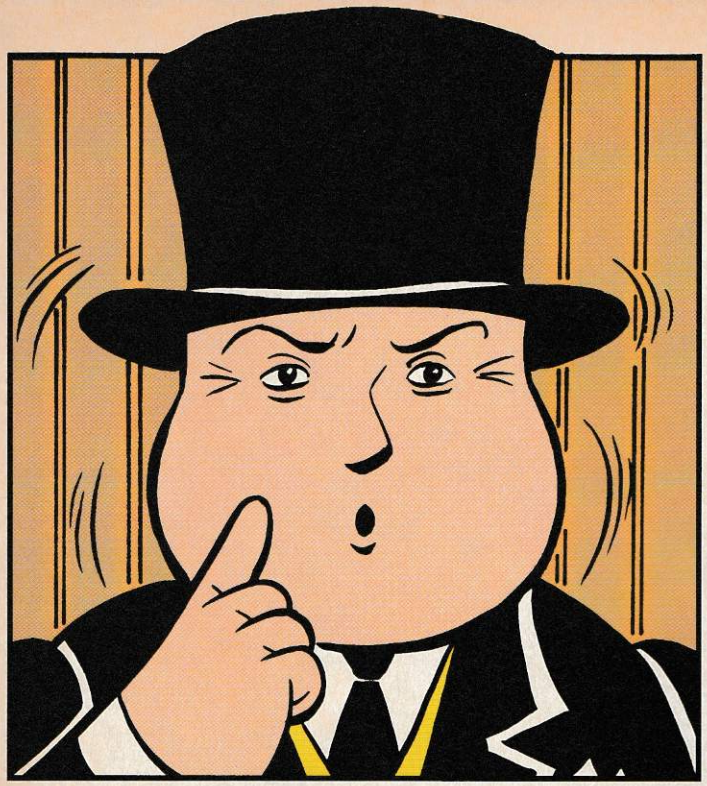
3. With a loud 'PHEEEP!' Gordon steamed off and the platform was suddenly very quiet. "Time for a well-earned cup of tea!" said the porter, and went into the staff room.



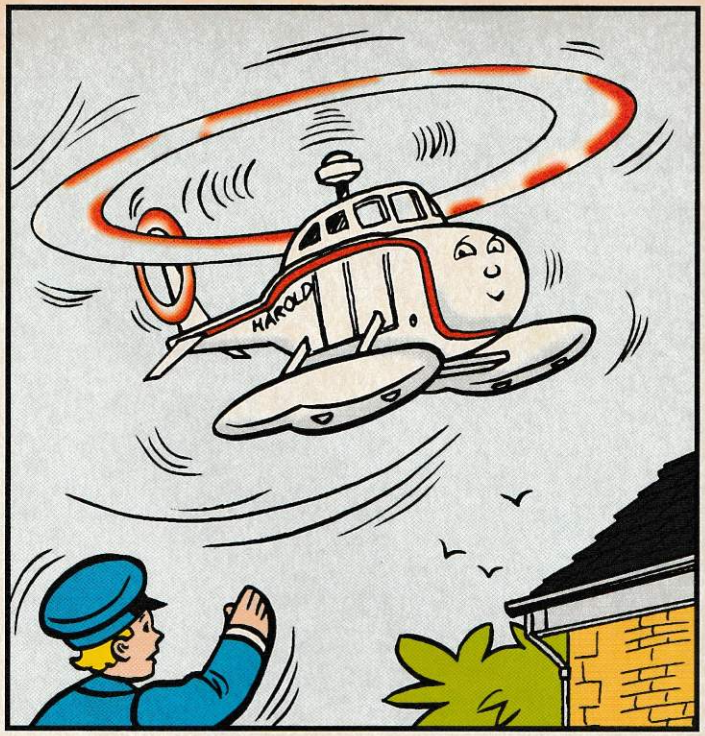
4. Minutes later, the Fat Controller's phone rang. It was a worried doctor at a patient's house, "I've picked up the wrong bag at the station and my special medicine is missing!"

5. As soon as the Fat Controller put the phone down, it rang again! It was a teacher, amazed to get home to find he had a doctor's bag. "I'll sort this out!" the Fat Controller replied.

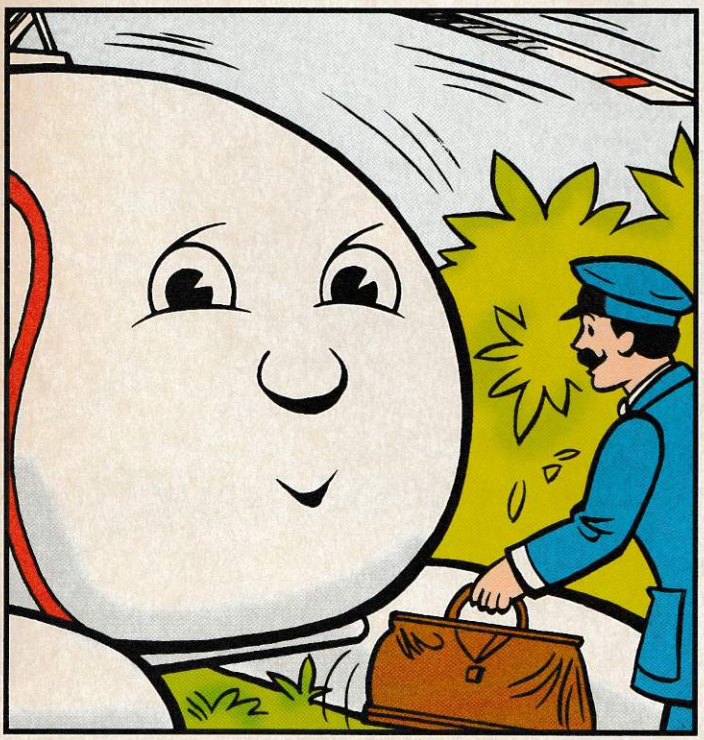
6. The porter was just finishing his tea when the Fat Controller burst in. "Oh Mr. Porter, there's been a big baggage mix-up!" he exclaimed. Then he explained the two calls.



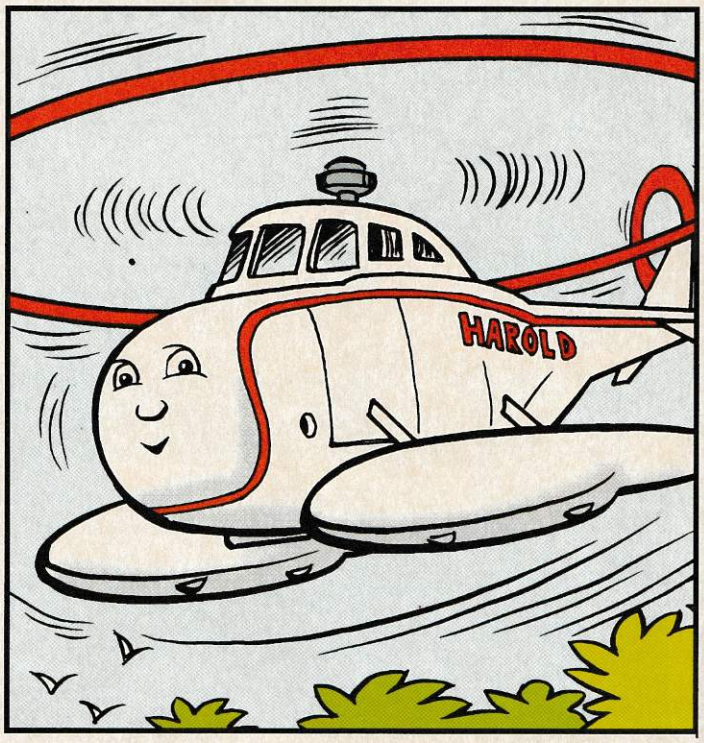
7. The porter spoke nervously, "Well, the platform was packed, Sir, and..." The Fat Controller butted in, "Never mind that, the patient needs his medicine now. Call Harold!"



8. Harold appeared as quick as lightning and the worried porter looked up! "Oh, Mr. Porter, what have you done?" asked Harold, grinning. "Don't worry!" he added.



9. Harold set off on his bag swapping mission. First he flew to Wellsworth where the teacher was waiting, and his pilot rushed over to pick up the bag. "This is urgent!" he shouted.



10. Harold flew back as fast as he could. "The teacher will have to wait for his suit, the medicine is much more important!" said Harold's pilot. "It's good to be useful!" he smiled.

11. Harold dropped off the doctor's bag at the patient's house, and picked up the teacher's bag at the same time. He had to fly over the Main Station on his way back.

12. By now, Gordon was back. "What's going on, Harold!" he asked. Harold laughed. "There's been some kind of baggage mix-up and I've been dashing around to sort it out!"

13. The Fat Controller was on the platform, and he smiled. "We'll let Mr. Porter do the explaining!" he said to Gordon. "Well, Sir, the bags looked just the same...." the porter blushed.

14. "Never mind!" said the Fat Controller. "All's well that ends well! The doctor got the medicine and the teacher will have his suit. Thank goodness for helpful Harold!"

Dot to dot!

Join the dots to complete the picture below and then colour it in!

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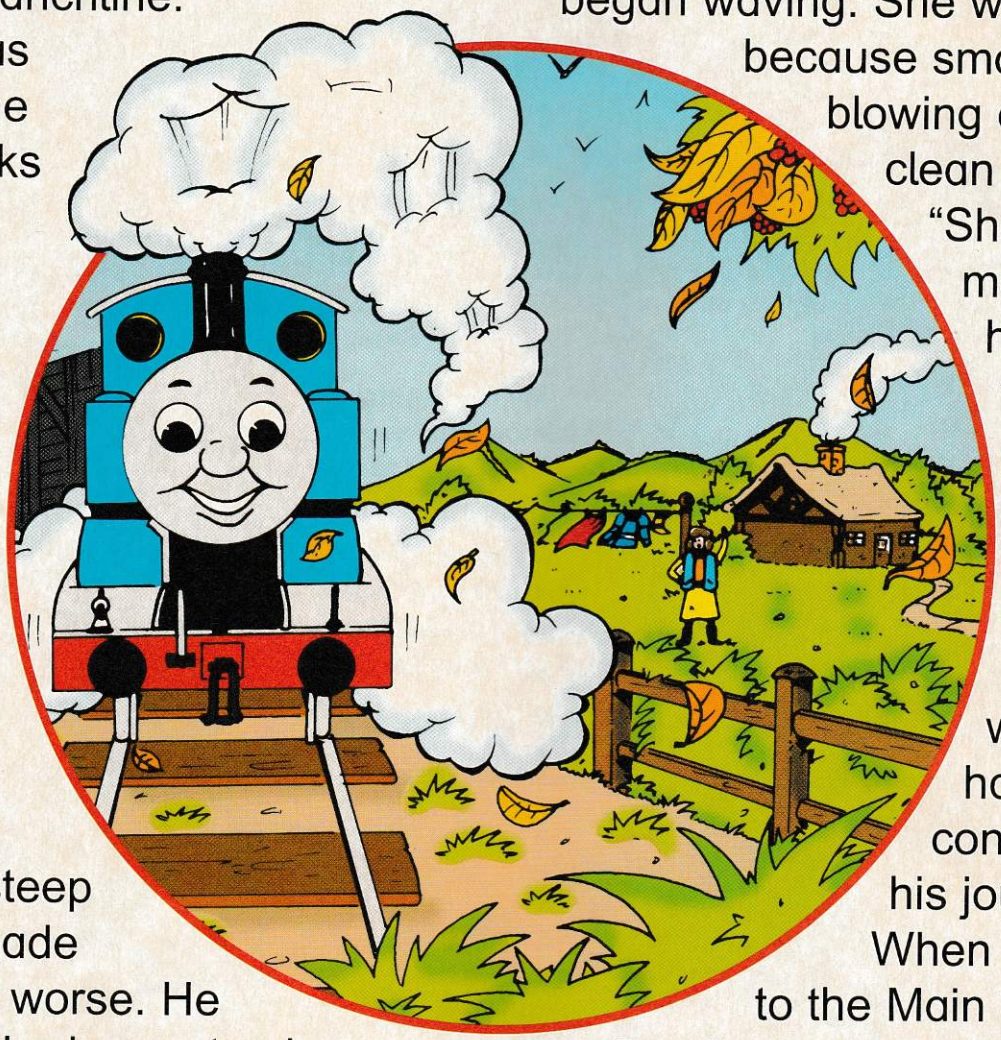
Thomas and the Washing!

It was a windy day on the Island of Sodor. Leaves rushed along the ground and blew across Thomas' branchline. Thomas was pulling some loaded trucks and he had to struggle against the wind. "I will be glad to get back to the engine shed," he shouted to his driver.



Thomas came to a steep hill which made things even worse. He had to pull the heavy trucks up the hill into the wind. The trucks grumbled and clanked. "You need some more coal," said his driver. Thomas felt stronger after he'd had some more coal shovelled into his firebox.

At last, they reached the top of the hill where there was a little cottage. Washing was hung on a washing line in the garden. As Thomas steamed past, a woman rushed out of the cottage and began waving. She was shouting because smoke was blowing on to her clean washing. "She's waving at me because I have done so well getting up the hill," Thomas thought. "Peep peep!" he whistled happily and continued on his journey.

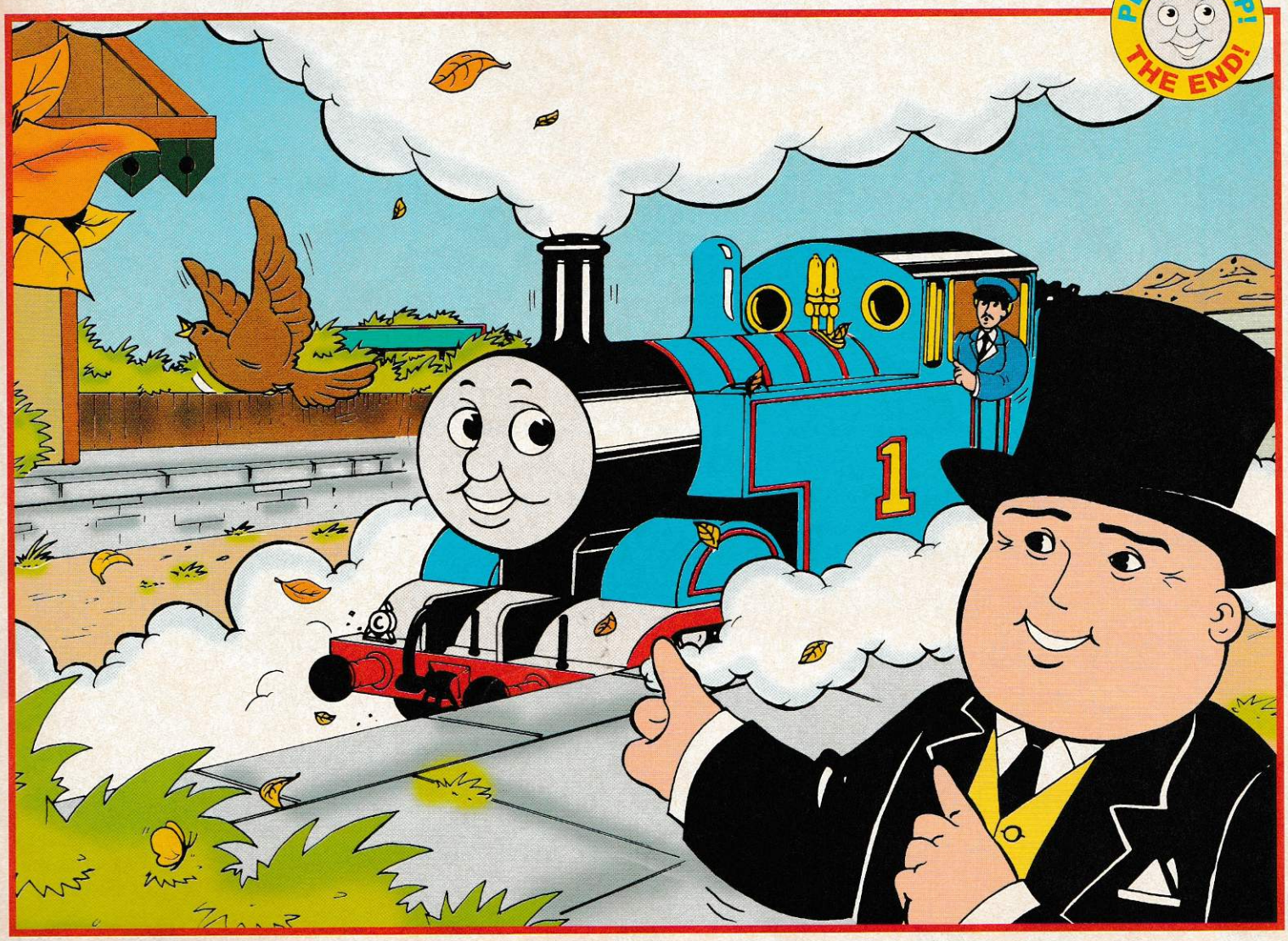
When he returned to the Main Station, the Fat Controller was waiting for him. "I've had a complaint, Thomas" he said, "the lady who lives in the cottage on top of the hill says smoke from your funnel got all over her washing and made it dirty again." Poor Thomas felt bad, he hadn't meant to do any harm. He couldn't help it being so windy.

The next day was very windy, too. Thomas was still feeling upset at being told off as he climbed the hill again. He was just passing the cottage again when, suddenly, something whizzed by and landed right on his funnel! He realised that it was the lady's washing. It had been blown off the line. The lady came running out of her house to try and save the washing.

As Thomas pulled up at a level crossing, his driver reached out and caught the washing. Luckily, just then a man on a bicycle stopped near Thomas. "That's a clever way to dry your washing," he joked.

The driver laughed and explained what had happened. "I'm passing that way," the man said, "I'll drop it off at the cottage." Thomas was relieved. He thought that the lady would be even more cross with him but he shouldn't have worried.

The lady was delighted. "Oh thank you. I'll thank Thomas when I see him!" she smiled. Thomas gave her a little peep when he saw the woman again. She told him how clever he was! He was even happier when the Fat Controller told him how Useful he had been!

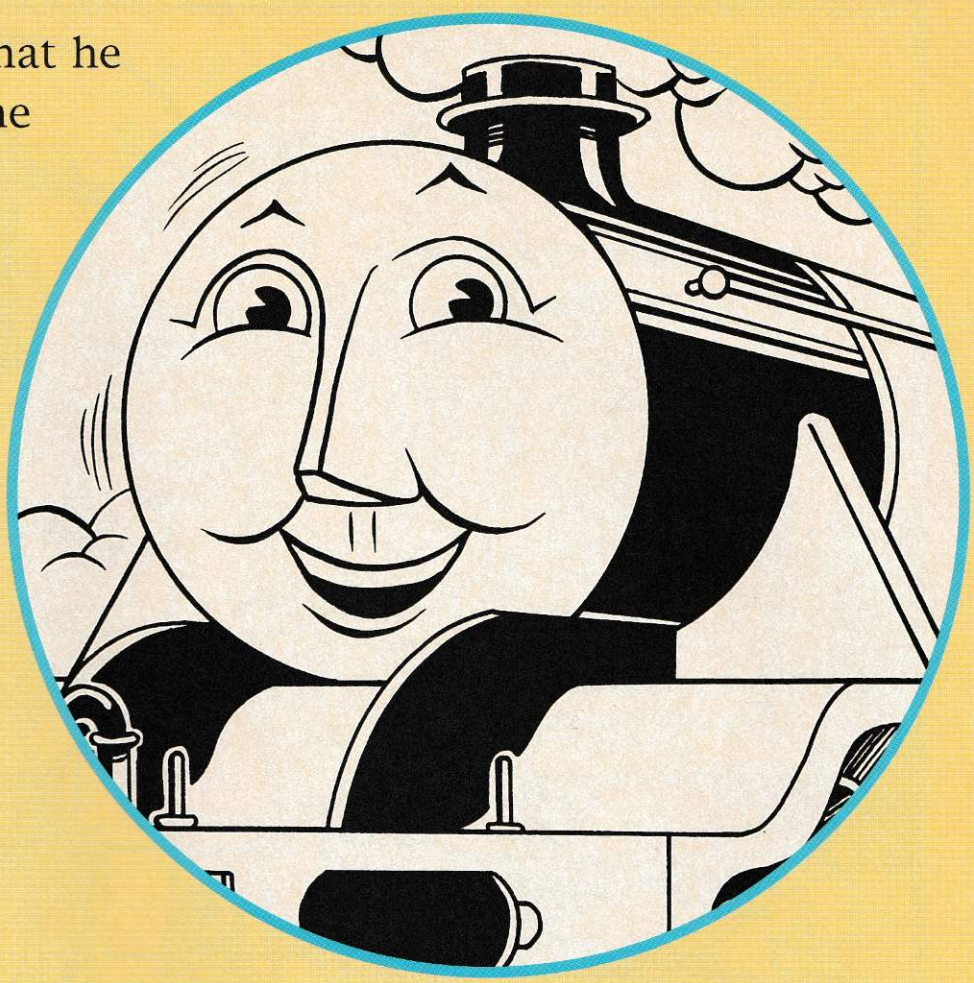


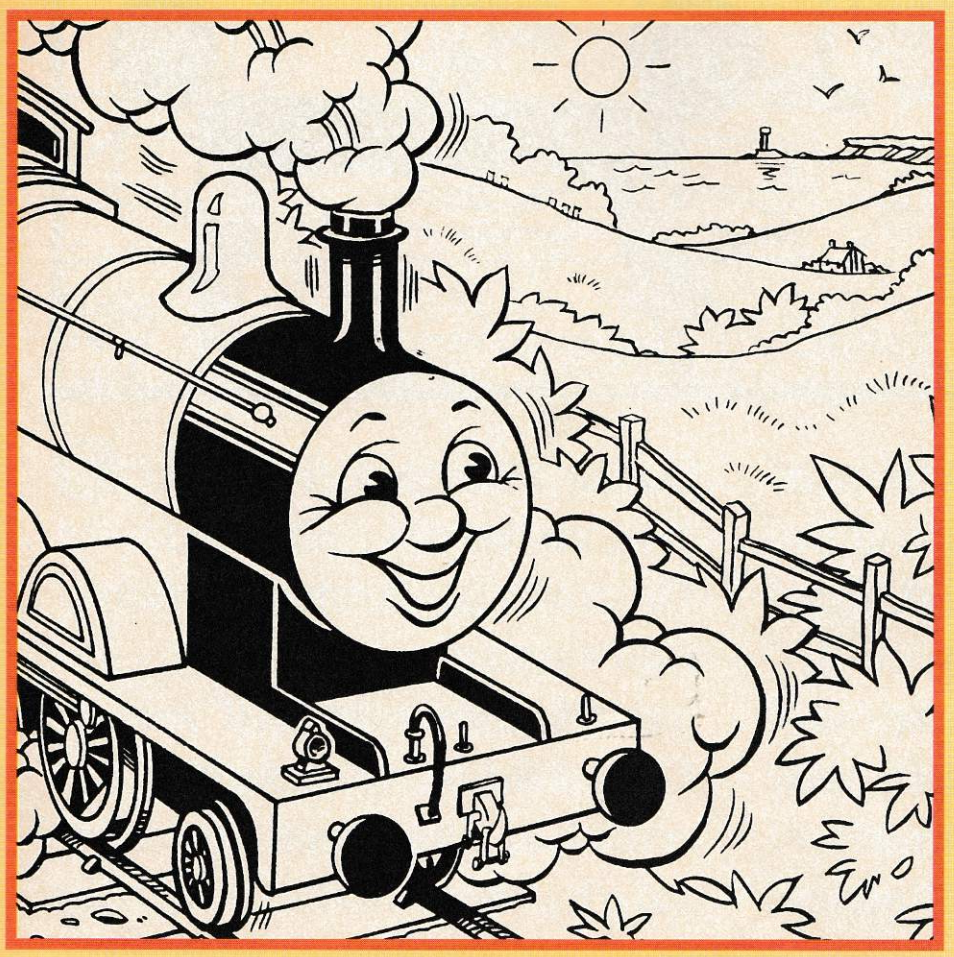
A read & colour story

The Painting!

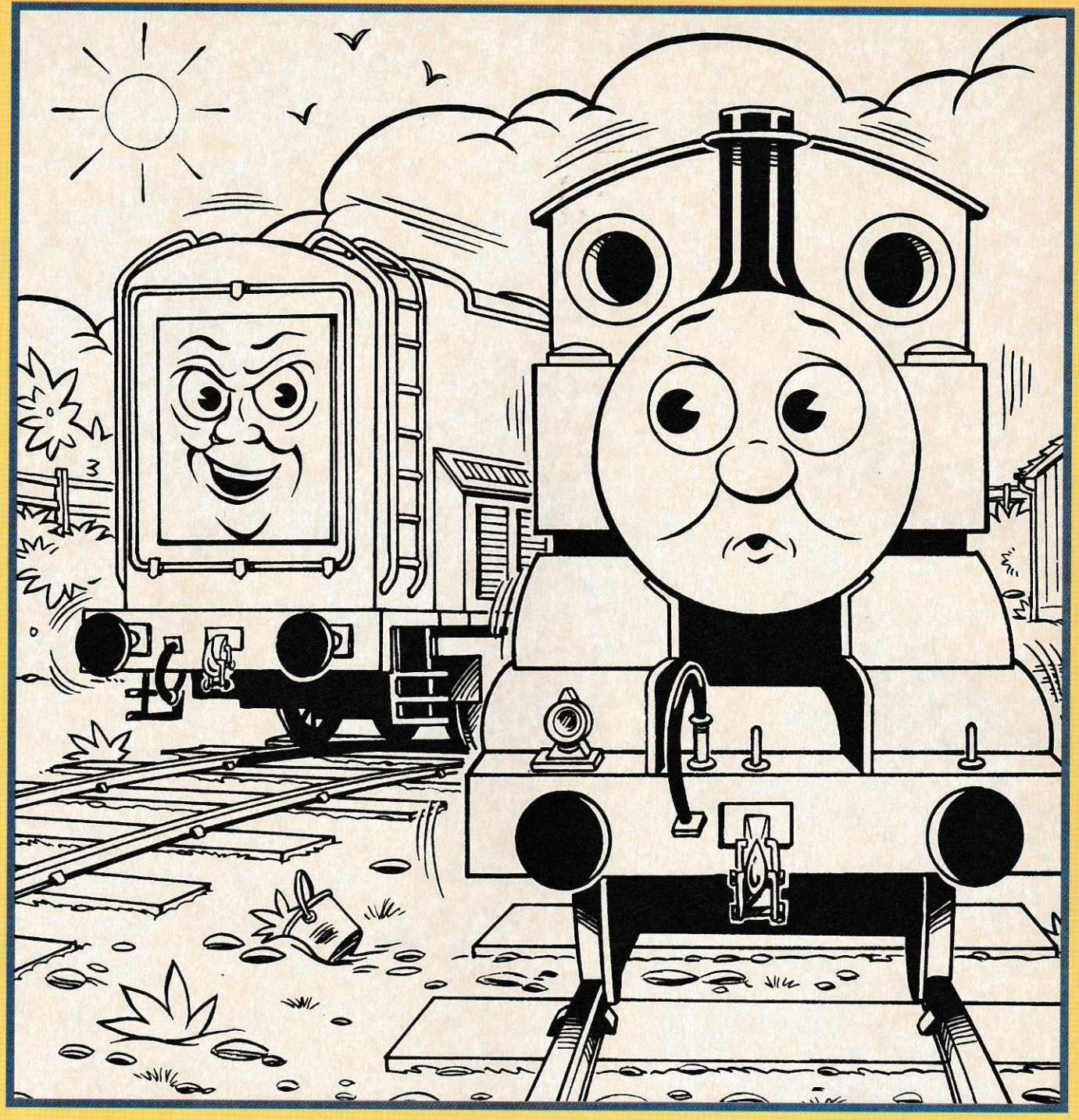
1 All the engines were very excited because a well-known artist had come to the island of Sodor. He was famous for his railway pictures, and the Fat Controller was very happy to welcome him to his station. "You have so many splendid engines here!" said the artist, looking around at Gordon, James and Percy preparing to leave the shed to start a day's work. "I simply must paint a picture of one of them!" All the engines hoped it would be them.

2 Gordon was sure that he would be chosen for the picture. "I'm the most important engine!" he puffed. "The express will make a very fine picture indeed." And the big, blue engine made sure that he was running at top speed up and down the line all day to impress the artist.





3 James boasted, "Look at my shiny coat of red paint! Everyone knows that I'm the smartest engine. I'm bound to be in the picture!" James had heard that red and green went well together, and he went off into the countryside to find a view that would show off his paint nicely.



4 But poor Thomas! He had broken down. All he could do was sit around all day doing nothing, waiting to be repaired. "How can I impress the artist when I'm stuck here all day?" he moped. Diesel glided smoothly past Thomas. He felt as fit as a fiddle! "You're too old-fashioned, Thomas!" he smirked. "I know who's going to be in the painting...modern me!" And he dashed off to show the artist how quick and up to date he was!

5 Well, finally the day came when the artist was ready to show everyone his picture. All the engines were there, and so was Sir Topham and Lady Hatt. What a surprise for all the big-headed engines... the picture was of Thomas!

"A splendid picture, of a Really Useful engine!" said Lady Hatt. The artist chuckled. "All the other engines were so busy rushing around all the time. This was the only engine that stayed still long enough for me to paint him!"

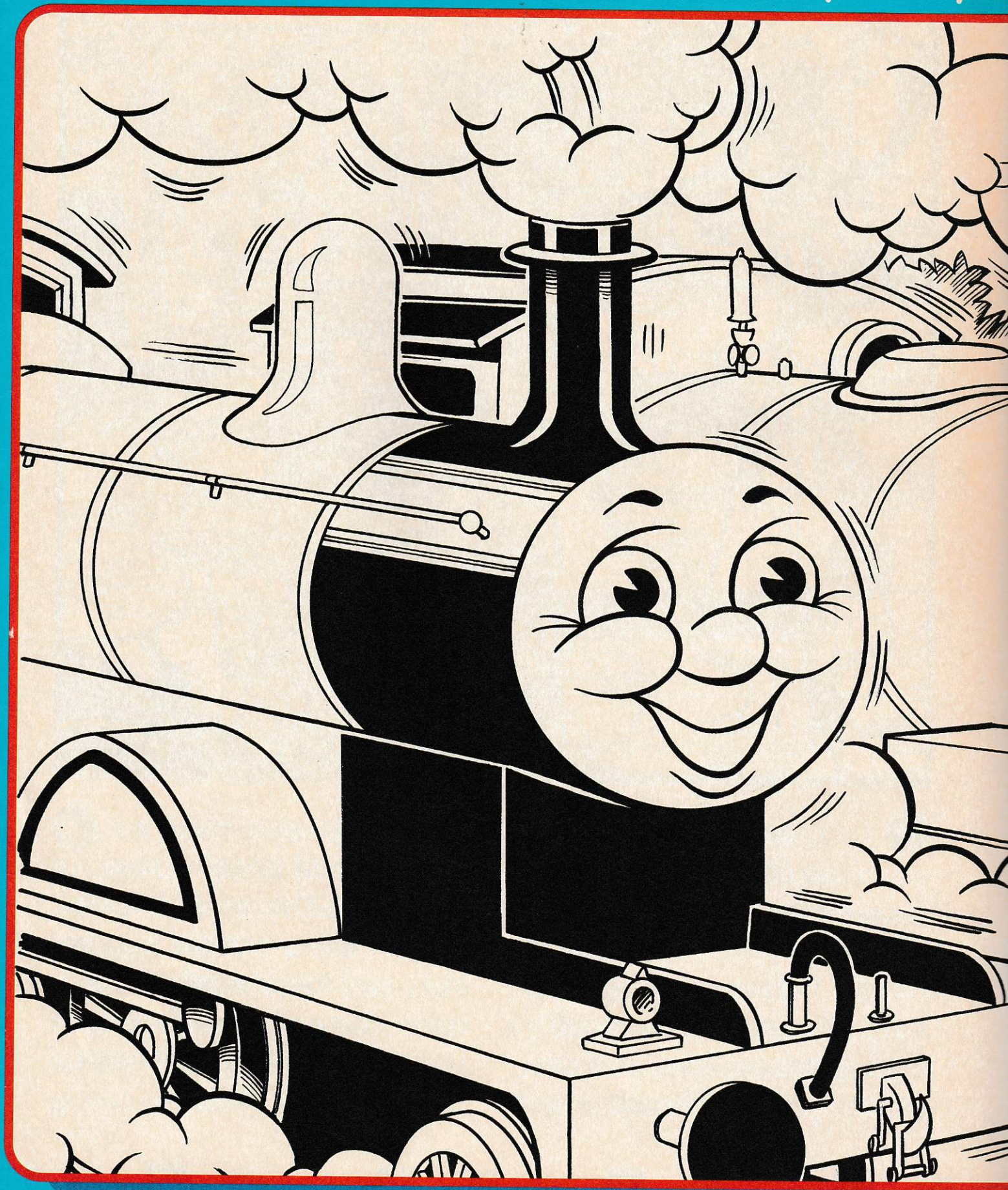
The end

yellow

blue

Colouri

James and Percy love to watch fireworks! Why don't you



g time!

green

red

olour in this Bonfire Night scene using your free crayons!

Fish Fuss!

One day, Lady Hatt called at the fishmonger's, with Stephen and Bridget.

"I'll buy the Fat Controller a nice piece of fish for his dinner," she told the children.

They both stared in surprise at all the different fish.

"I've cod, plaice and haddock," began the fishmonger. "Or how about some skate?"

While Lady Hatt made up her mind, Stephen spoke to his sister.

"I've never seen so many fish," he said.

"You'll see lots more if you visit the fish market when the fishing fleet brings in the catch," smiled the fishmonger.

Stephen and Bridget thought that would be good fun. So after their grandfather came home from work, they asked him if they could go.

"Be up early tomorrow," said the Fat Controller, "and Percy will take you. It's his turn to pull the fish train."

Stephen and Bridget could hardly

wait. Next morning, they eagerly set off for the fish market aboard Percy. The children watched the freshly caught fish being sold. Big boxes of fish were put into Percy's trucks. When it was time to leave, Stephen and Bridget were each given a bag of fish to take home.

Later, Percy pulled into a station to unload some fish. Then Daisy arrived on the other line.

"Oooh! You smell horribly fishy, Percy!" she fussed. "Keep away from me. I'm so fresh and clean."

"I can't help it!" fumed Percy.

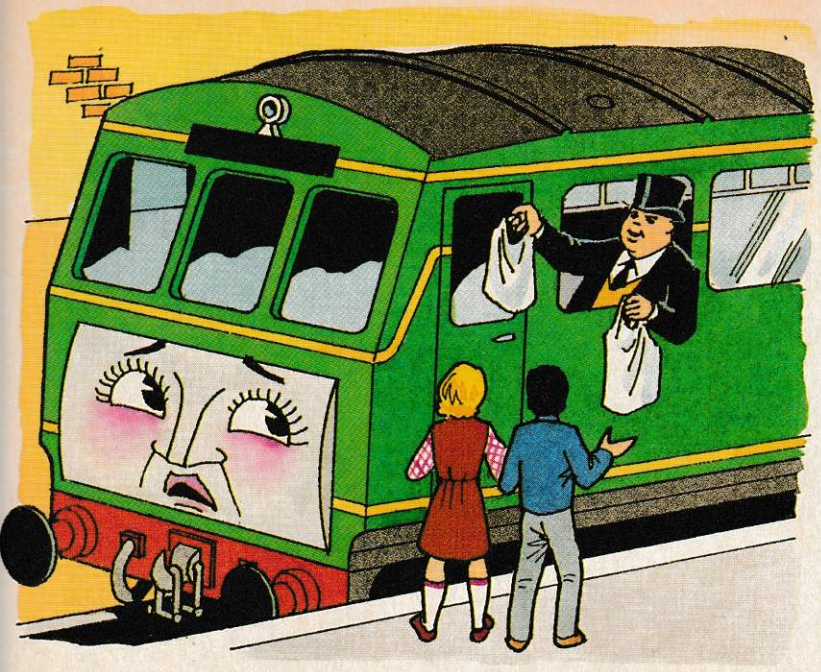
He had lots more deliveries to make. So Stephen and Bridget went back to the Main Station with Daisy. When she arrived, the children told the Fat Controller all about their outing. Meanwhile, Daisy stood in the yard.

"Phew! Something smells fishy!" called James as he rolled past her. "I think it's you, Daisy!"

"Nonsense!" she sniffed. "Percy's the fish engine, not me."

Next moment, Oliver approached. He wrinkled his nose at Daisy. So did Thomas and some other engines when they puffed too close to her.

"Ooh! Phew!" they cried.



The Fat Controller came to see what all the noise was about.

"Tell them I can't possibly smell of fish, sir," protested Daisy.

"But you do!" he replied.

The Fat Controller climbed aboard Daisy and found two bags of fish by one of her seats.

"No wonder!" he said. "I think I can guess where these came from?" The Fat Controller fetched Stephen and Bridget.

"Oh, no! We completely forgot! We left those bags on Daisy!" explained Stephen.

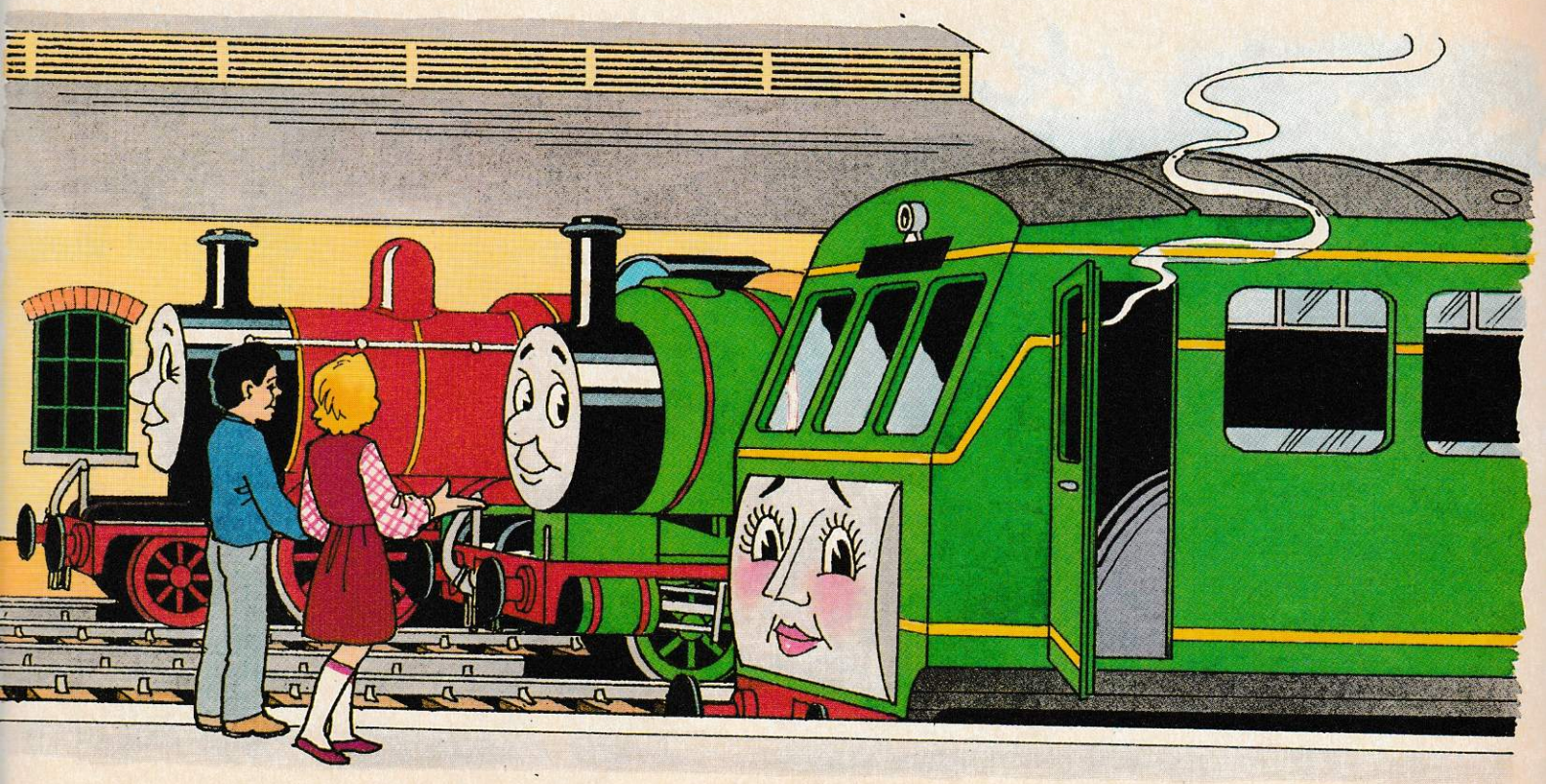
"Let's share the fish with the railway staff, so everyone can enjoy some for dinner!" said Bridget.

As for Daisy, all her windows were opened wide to blow away the smell before she could carry any more passengers. She felt very silly, especially when Percy heard.

"Sorry, Daisy!" said Stephen and Bridget.

"It serves me right," she sighed, "for making such a fuss about Percy's fish!"

The End



COMPETITION TIME!

We have got 10 fantastic miniature railway sets to give away!

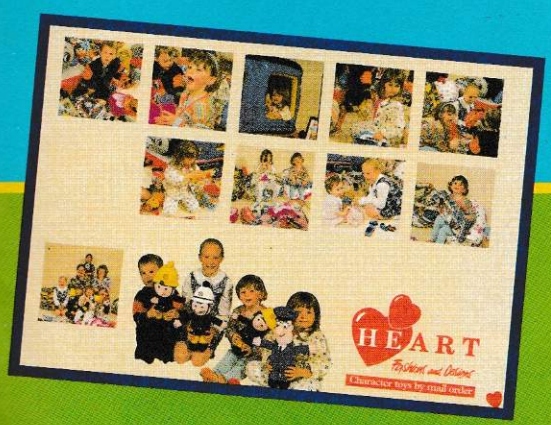
This excellent little railway includes a station, the shed, a turntable, the mine and even the harbour!

Simply tell us: Where does Thomas go to sleep at night?

A. The mine
B. The station
C. The shed

Send your answers on a postcard along with your name and address to: Thomas/Bluebird Competition, Heart Fashions and Designs, 37a High Street, Walsall Wood, W. Midlands, WS9 9LR.

All entries must be received by 6th November 1997.



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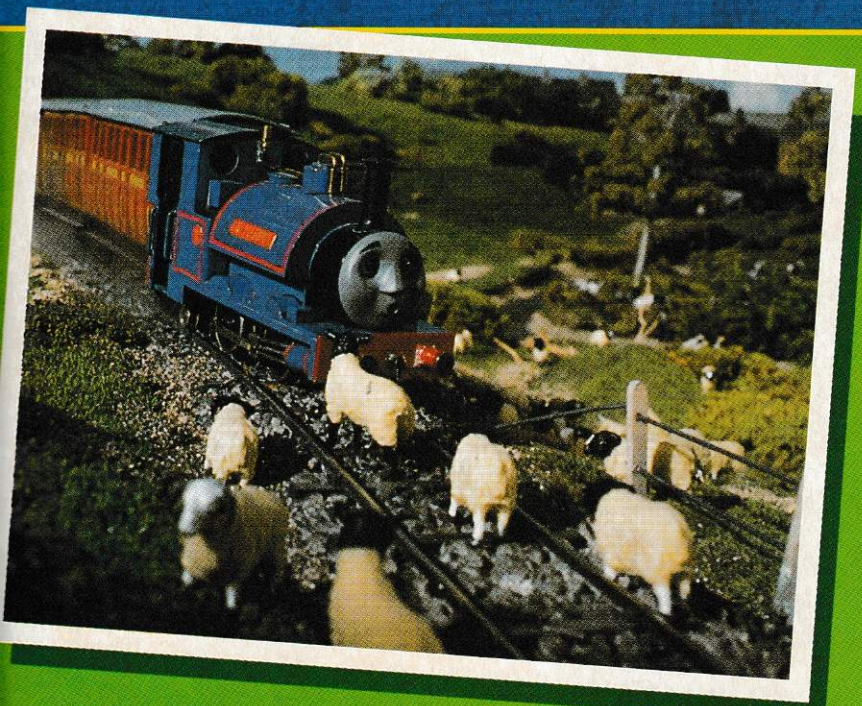
This competition is open to all readers other than employees and their families of participating companies. We cannot accept any responsibility for prizes lost or damaged in the post. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered into.

Four Little Engines!

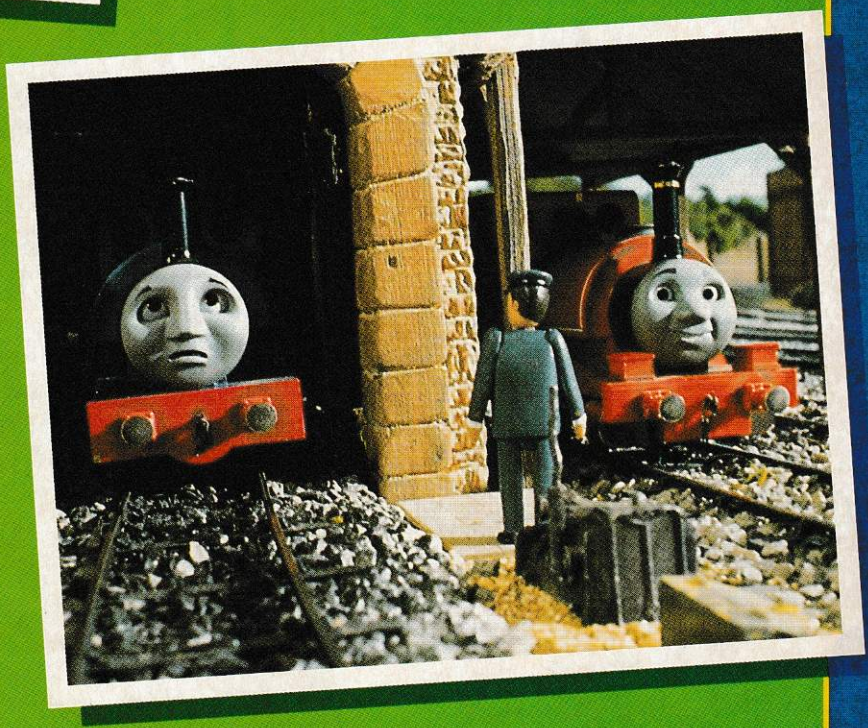
Based on *The Railway Series* by the Rev W Awdry.

In a lovely place that has a lake in the woods and a beautiful waterfall, there are four busy little engines called Skarloey, Rheneas, Peter Sam and Sir Handel. The four little engines are happy on their line which is run by the Thin Controller.



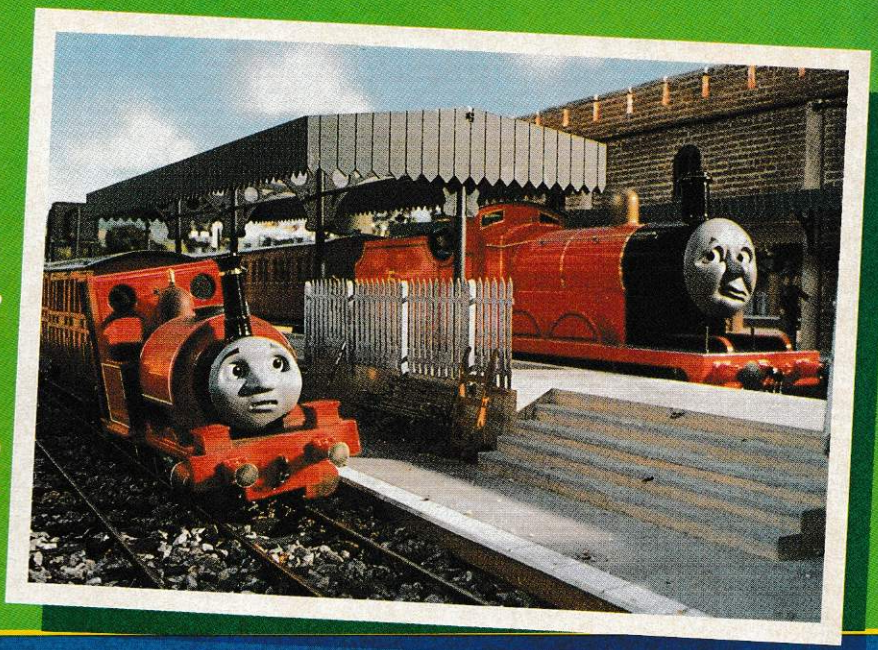
1 Sir Handel was having trouble with some coaches. He tried to be kind but they didn't trust him. When he stopped for some sheep grazing on the line, the coaches got cross and pushed Sir Handel off the rails. No one was hurt, but Sir Handel limped sadly to the shed.

2 "No more work for you today," said his driver. "How are we going to pull the visitors' train without an engine?" Skarloey was in the shed for a rest. "What about me, Sir? I'll try to do it," said the old engine. Before long, his fire was alight and he started to build up steam again.



3 The guard blew the whistle and the journey began. "This is lovely," sang Skarloey. Soon, the line grew steep. Skarloey fell short of steam and started to struggle. His springs were weak and the rail joints jarred his wheels. "I feel all crooked," he complained. But Skarloey was determined to get to the station.

4 Skarloey arrived clanging and clanking. Everyone was pleased, but Skarloey was worried. "Old engines can't pull trains like the young ones can," he said. "They can if they're mended. That's what's going to happen to you. You deserve it!" smiled his driver.

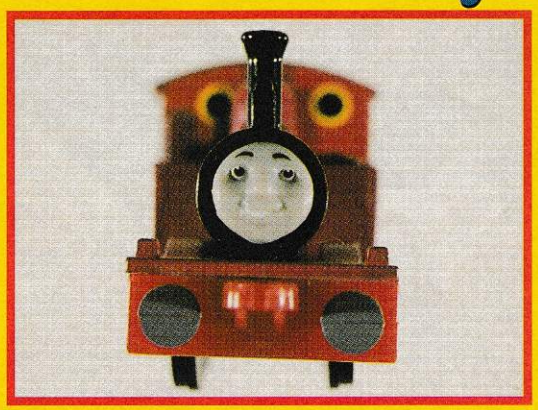


In Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends next time, you can read all about The Trouble with Mud!

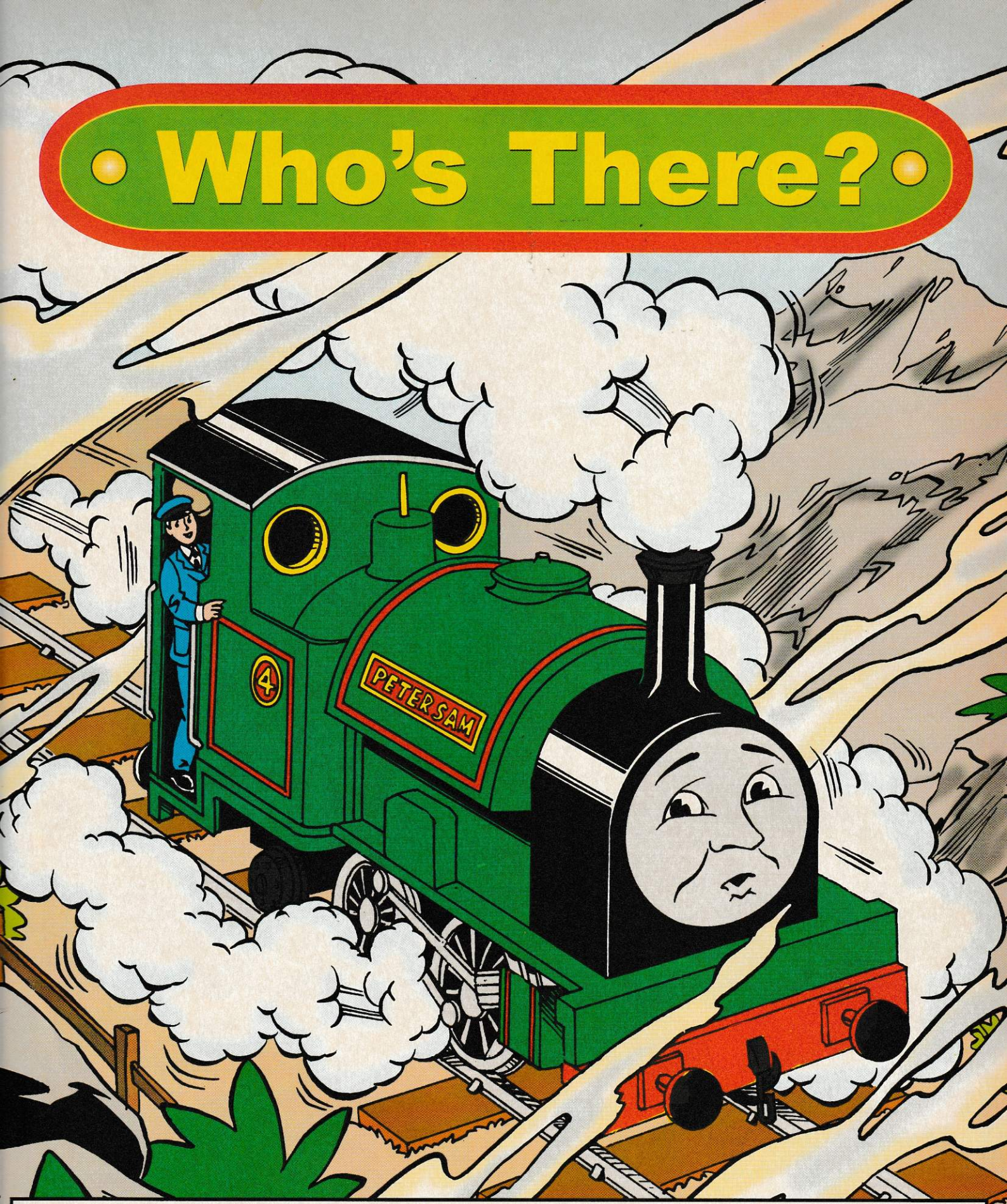
Win a model of Skarloey!

Five lucky winners can win a splendid model of Skarloey from the ERTL engine range! Just send a postcard, with your name, age and address to: Thomas/262 model competition, Marvel Comics, Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 5UJ.

Closing date: November 6th 1997.

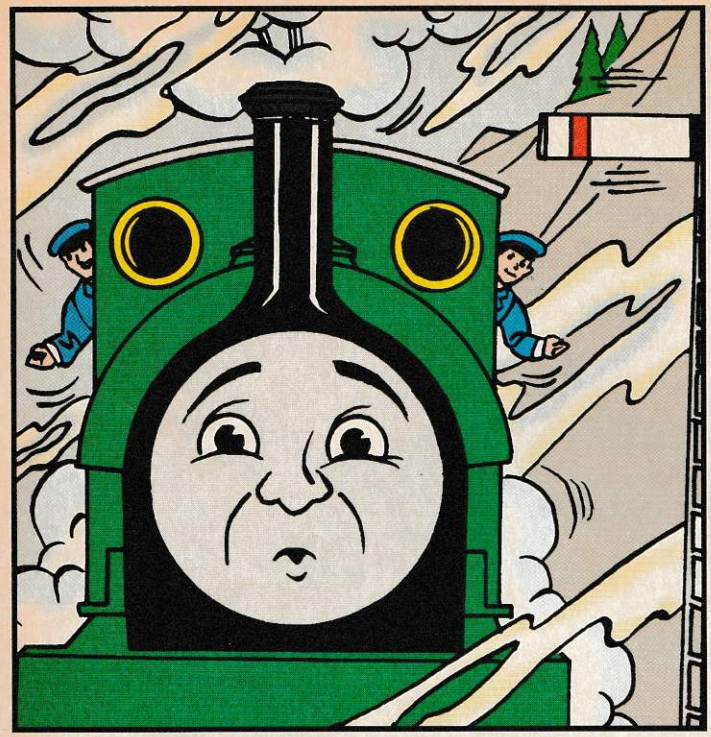


Who's There?



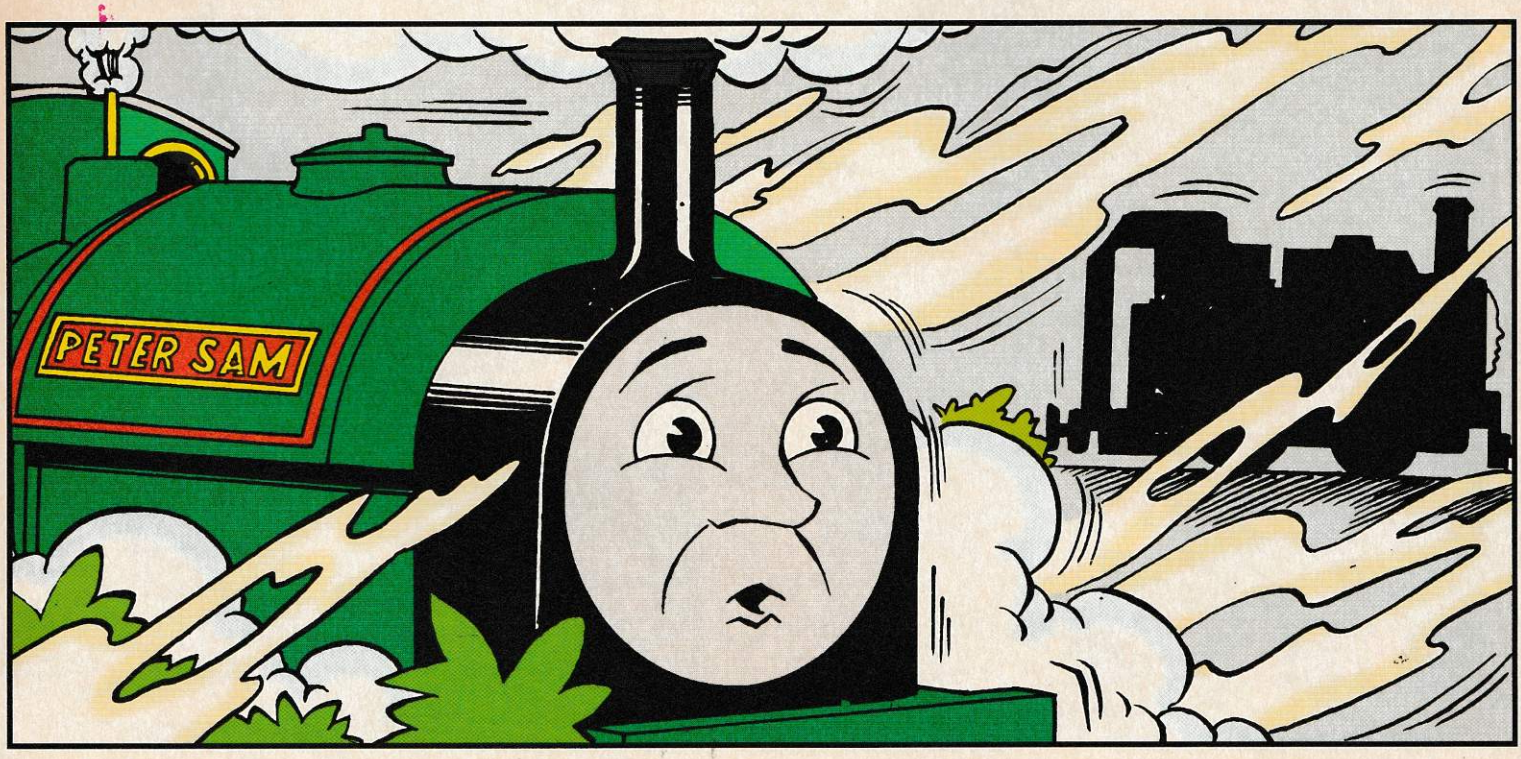
1. Early one morning, Peter Sam set out cheerily on the little railway. He was to collect a truck at the end of a new section of line. Part of it passed between tall, rocky slopes.

2. It was misty so Peter Sam could not see clearly. He had to go even more carefully than usual. "The mist makes everywhere look strange and shadowy," thought Peter Sam.



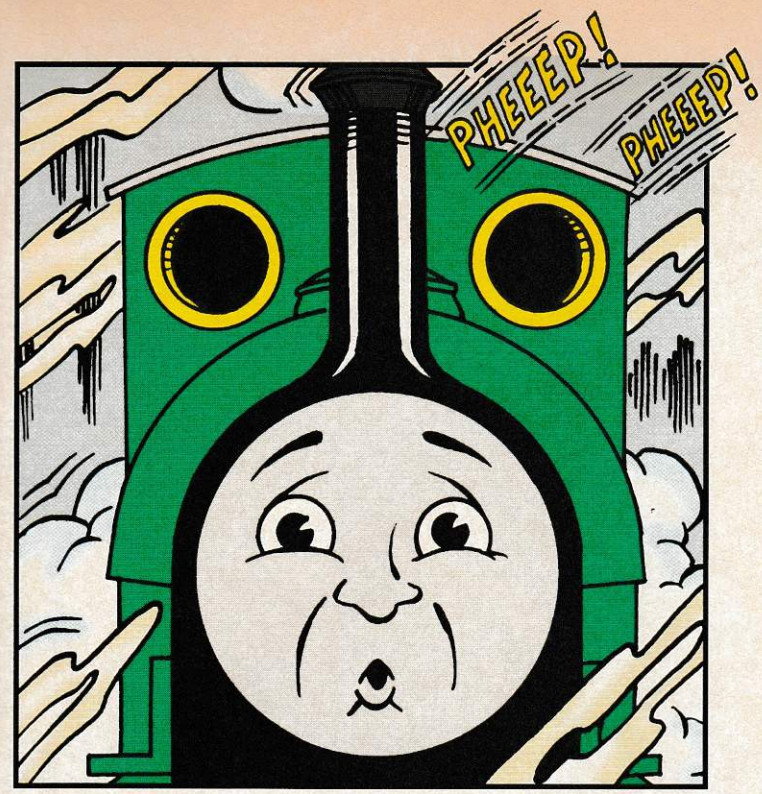
3. Before long, he pulled up at a signal. While he waited, Peter Sam listened. But there was no sound, except the faint hiss of steam from his valves. "How spooky," he said.

4. "This place seems so silent and empty," added Peter Sam. He began to feel lonely. Then he had an idea. "I know," smiled Peter Sam. "I'll whistle to cheer myself up!"

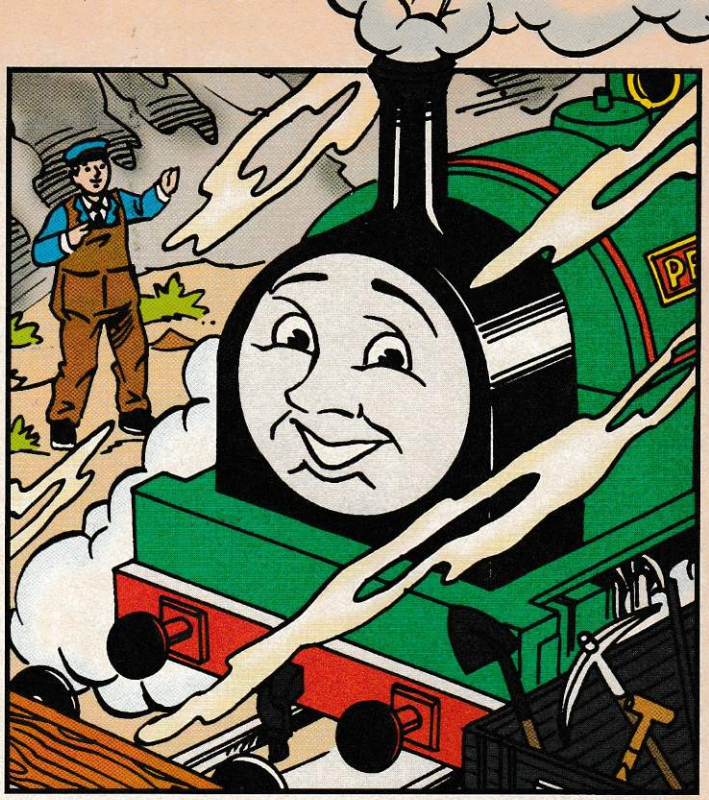


5. "Peep! Peep!" he called, happy to hear the comforting sound. Suddenly, he had a shock. "Peep! Peep!" someone answered. "Who's there?" gasped the startled engine.

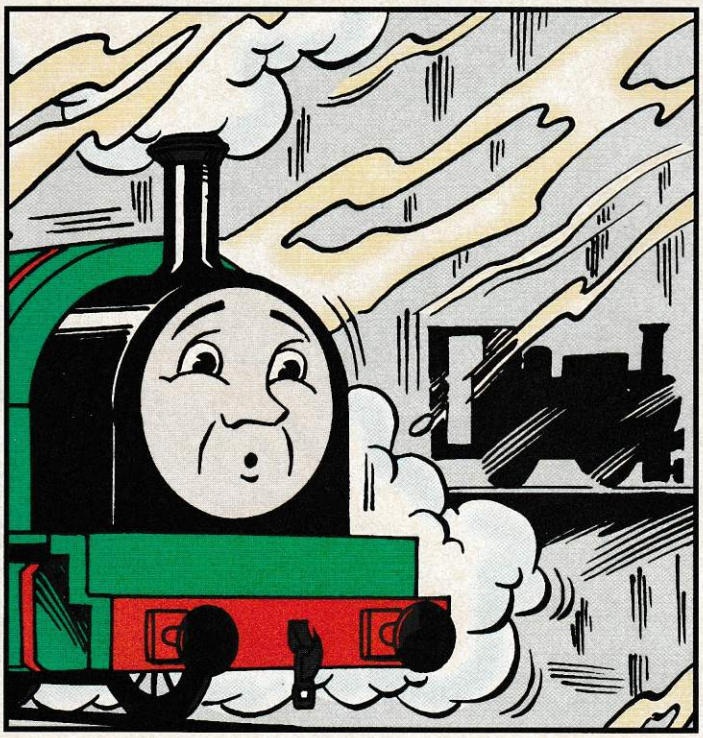
6. But the whistling stopped. The signal changed and Peter Sam rolled on quickly. He peered into the mist with big, worried eyes. He spotted a large, shadowy shape.



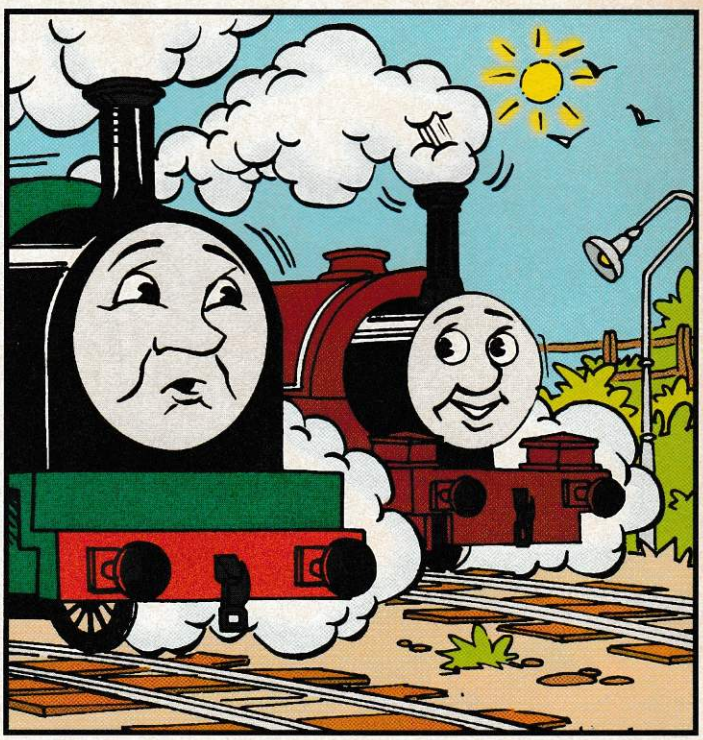
7. "It's an engine and very close by!" cried Peter Sam in alarm. "I'm the only one who is scheduled to be here!" "Pheeep!" he whistled a loud warning. "Pheeep!" came the reply.



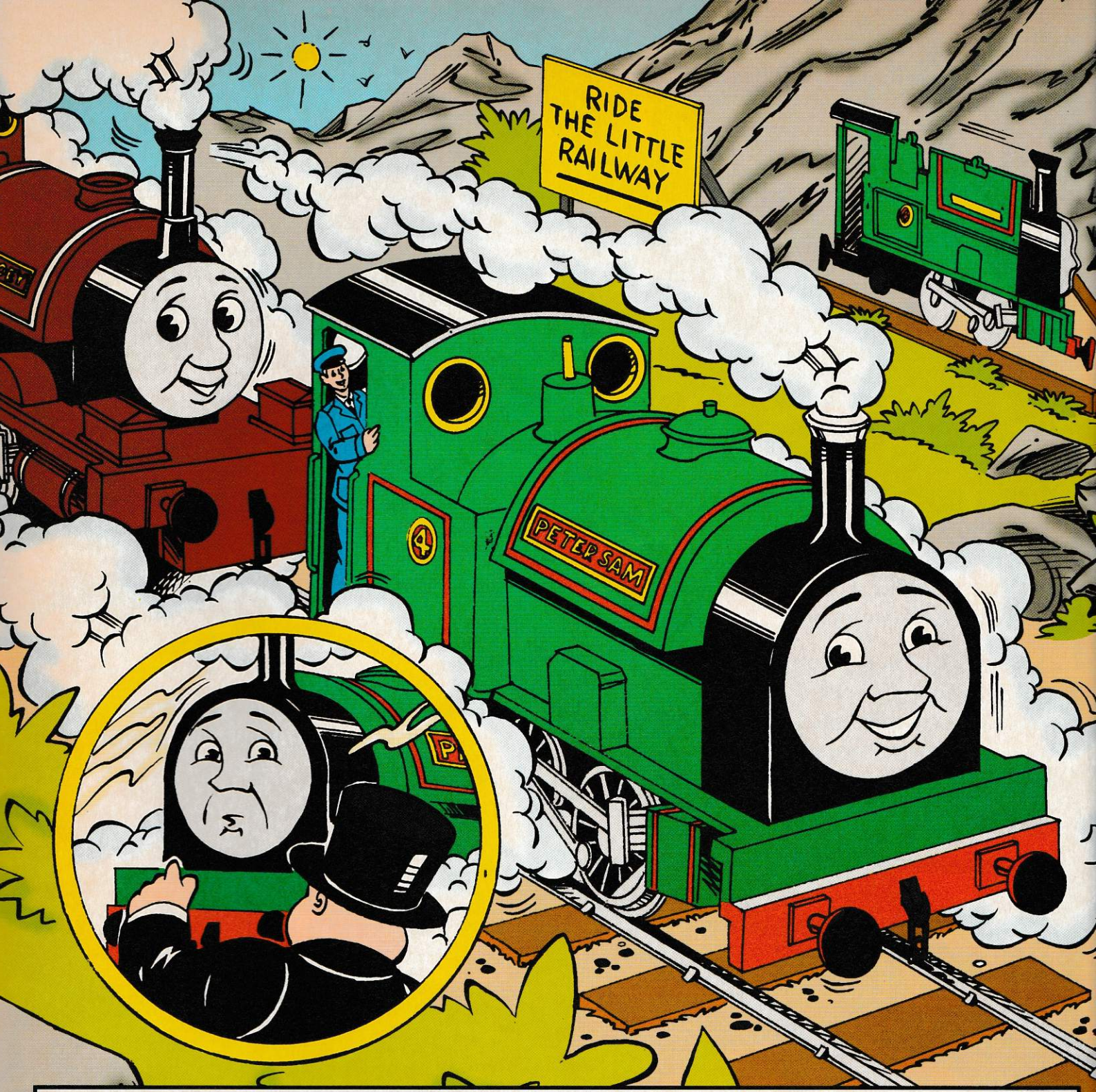
8. "It must be that mysterious engine," said Peter Sam. But he did not wait to find out. Poor Peter Sam hurried on as fast as he could. Soon he reached the end of the new line.



9. Peter Sam collected the truck, full of workmen's tools, then began the return journey. The mist was as thick as ever and the shadowy engine was still there. He shuddered.

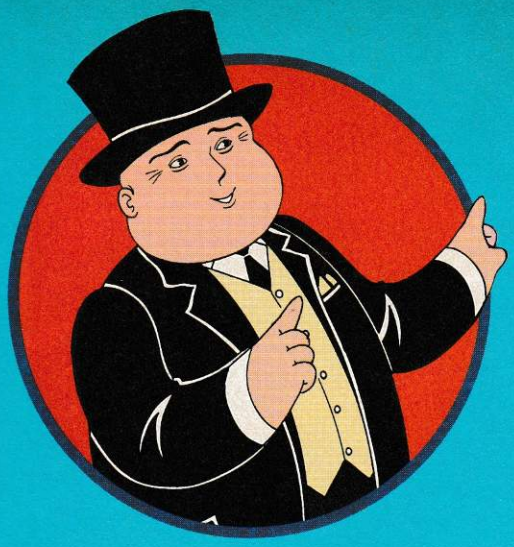


10. Later, he told the other little engines what had happened. "I don't understand," said Peter Sam. "I do," teased Skarloey. "It must have been a ghost train you saw and heard!"



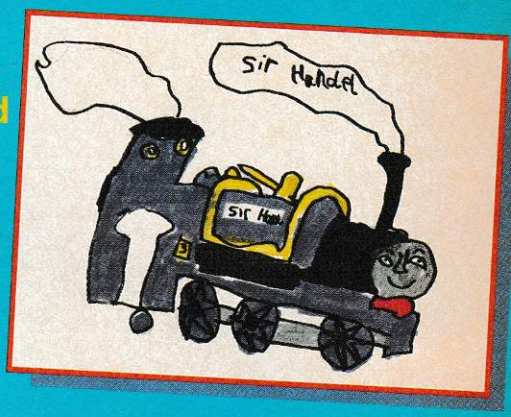
11. "I'm not going back," said Peter Sam. Later, the Fat Controller paid him a visit. "I don't believe in ghost trains," the Fat Controller frowned. Skarloey spoke up, bravely. "I'll go with Peter Sam!" he said. The Fat Controller agreed. There was a chilly mist again as both engines left. But it soon melted and the sun shone. At the new track, Peter Sam whistled and heard the reply again.

12. "That's just your own echo in the mountains," explained Skarloey. At last, Peter Sam saw the shadowy engine clearly. "It's a big wooden cut-out of me!" he gasped. "To advertise our railway," smiled Skarloey. "The workmen must have put it up." Peter Sam began to whistle all the more and laugh at his echo. "Silly me!" he smiled. "From now on, I'll enjoy whistling along through Echo Pass!"



The m

Please send your letters, pictures and drawings to Mail Train, Thomas, Marvel Comics, Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 5UJ.



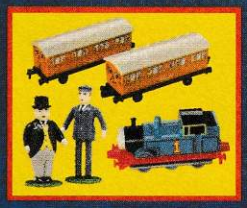
This very proud Sir Handel was sent in by 6 year old Joshua Oldridge!

Star Letter

Dear Fat Controller,
Are you married and do you have any children? If so, do they get to blow Thomas's whistle?

Love from Mark Trotter, aged 6.

I am married to the lovely Lady Hatt! My two children who are grown up now, are Charles and Barbara. I also have two lovely grandchildren, Stephen and Bridget, who keep asking me when they can blow Thomas's whistle!



If we print your STAR LETTER, you will receive a Fat Controller, a Porter, Thomas & Annie and Clarabel as a prize!

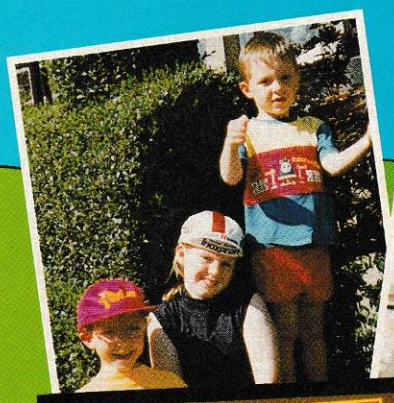
Prize Poem!

Duncan Adams, aged 4, deserves a prize for this smashing poem!

Duncan is the best!
Under the tunnels he likes to go,
Not up hills, it makes him slow.
Culdee is his best friend,
And I think he's best of all.
Nobody can beat Duncan after all!

Happy Birthday

To: Matthew Dent, aged 5,
Alexander Firth, aged 4,
Harry Swan, aged 2,
Alex Rae,
Jake Bedford, aged 2,
Sam Hart, aged 5,
Sofia Freeman, aged 4,
Ronan Fay, aged 5.

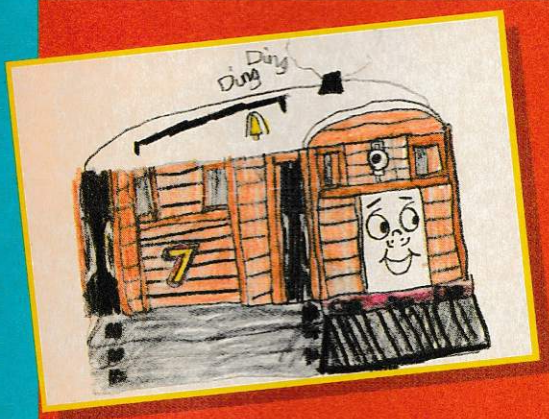


Laura, Thomas & William Wayman!

Thomas Mason, aged 5!

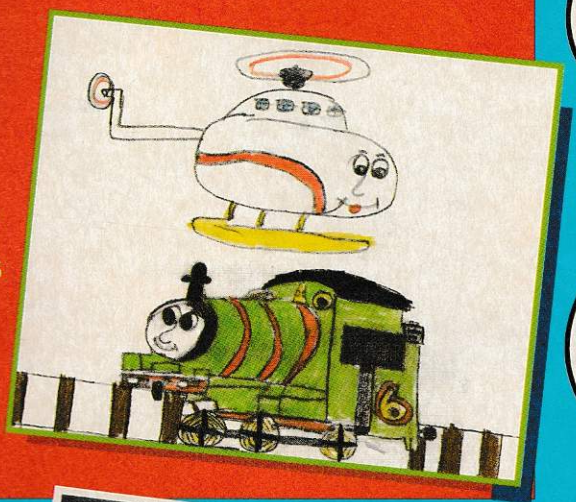
ail train!

Anyone who has a drawing printed on this page will win a set of special Thomas Glitter Stickers.



"Ding, ding" here comes Toby in this great picture by Robin Lock, aged 7!

Thanks very much to Cassie and Joe McKenna who drew this picture of Percy and Harold!



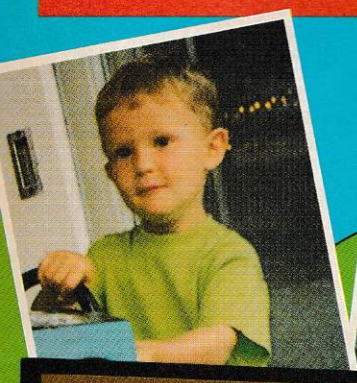
Percy's Jokes!

Have you got a favourite joke or funny story? Why not send it to Percy?

What's green and goes up and down?
Percy stuck in a lift!
Ian Anderson, aged 6.

Why couldn't the butterfly go to the dance?
It was a moth ball!
Irene Fletcher, aged 3.

What did the traffic light say to the car?
Don't look now, I'm changing!
John Gould, aged 4.



Christopher Price, aged 3!

Robbie Davis, aged 6!

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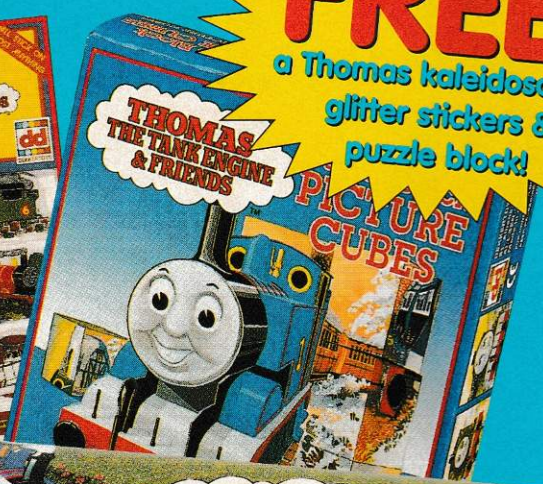

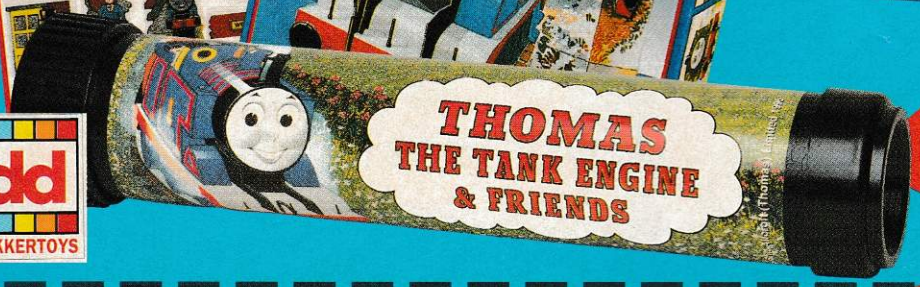

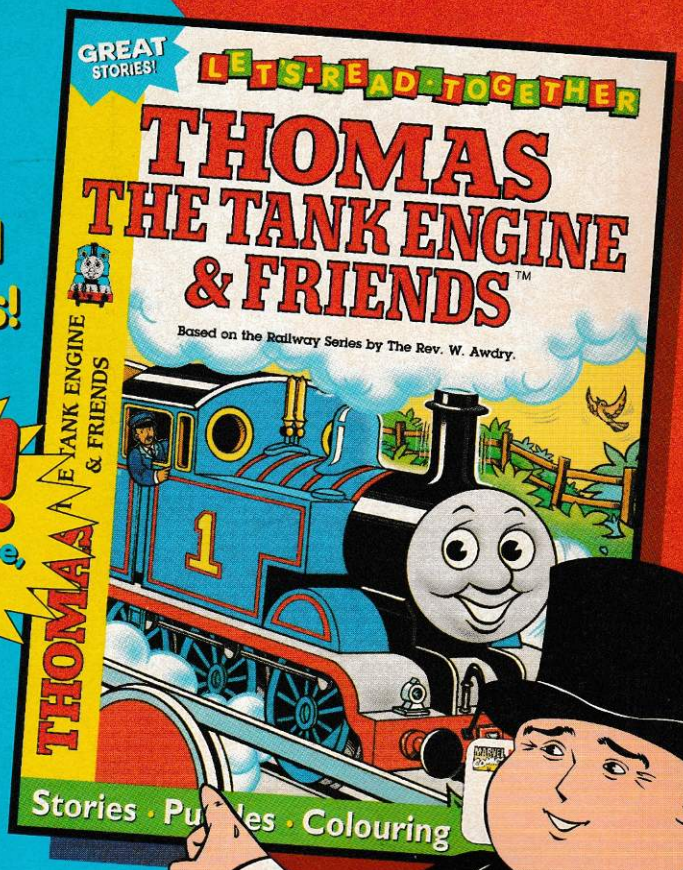

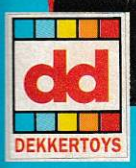

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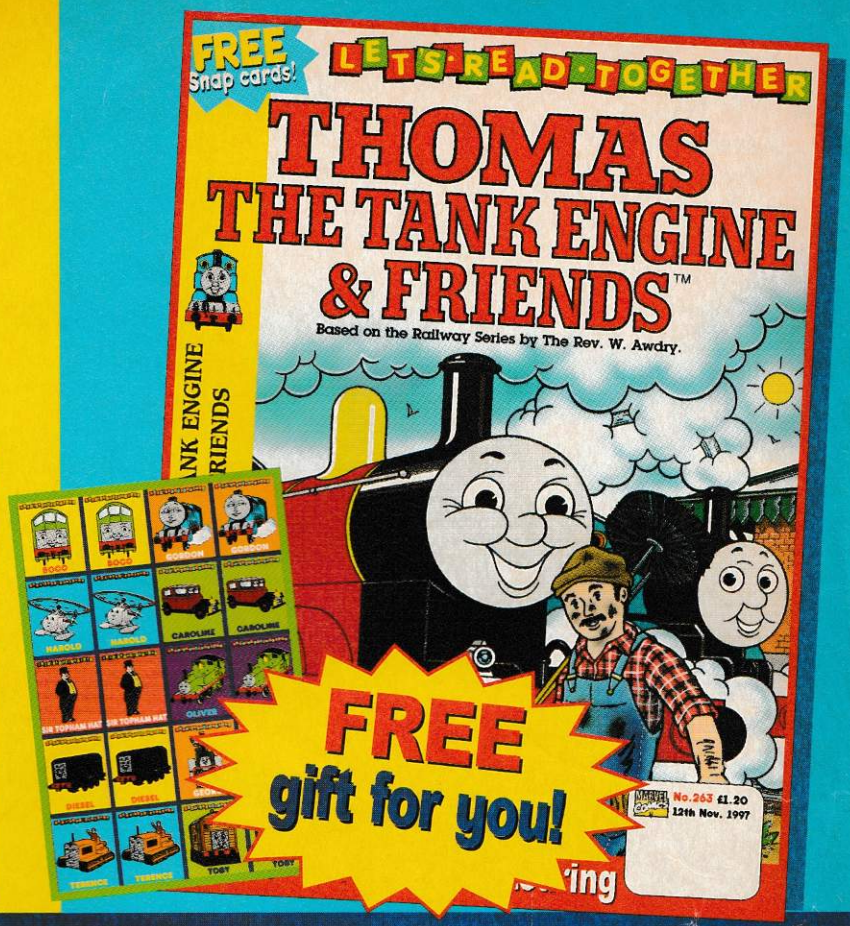

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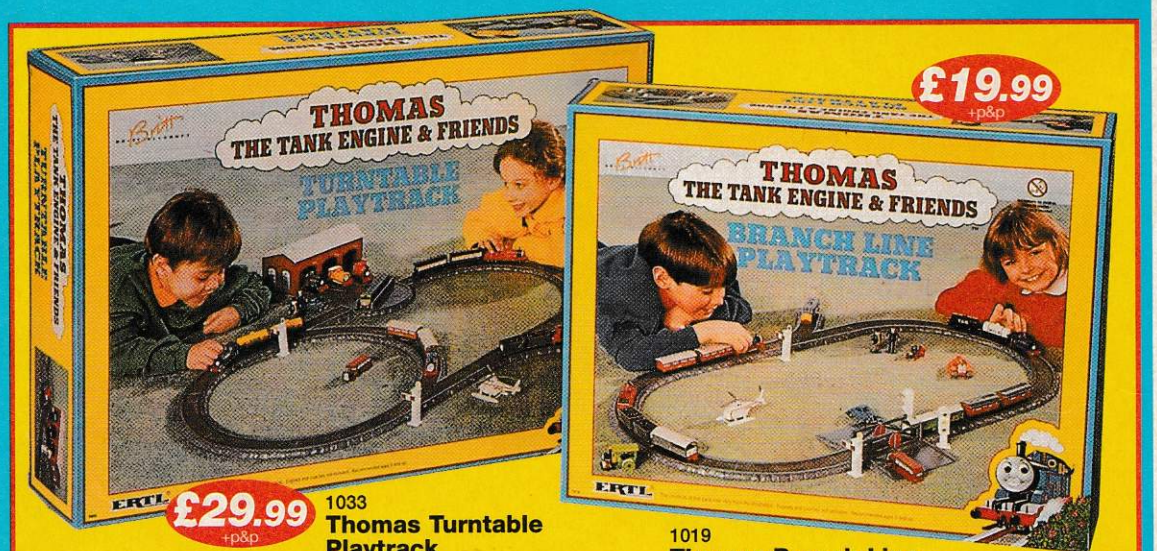

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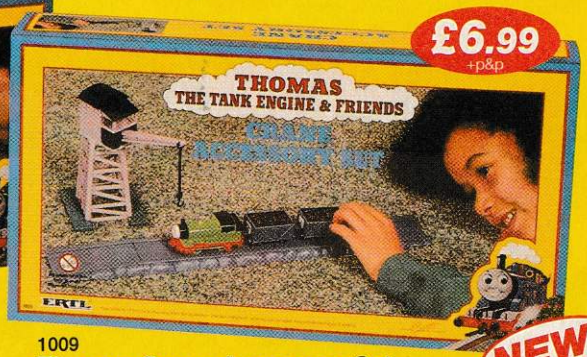

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